

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Restriction has been required between a first group of claims that includes claims 1-16 (Group I), and a second group that includes claims 17-23 (Group II). Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement, for the following reasons.

The Examiner contends that the transformer of claims 17-23 can be made by a process other than the method recited in claims 1-16. In particular, the Examiner states: “[i]n the instant case the three phase transformer can be made by using a molding process.” Office action at pg. 2, lines 9-13. Applicants respectfully disagree. As shown by the following comparison of claims 1 and 17, the transformer of claim 17 can be made only by the method of claim 1.

Claim 17 recites, in part:

[a] three-phase transformer, comprising a first, a second, and a third winding leg, and a first, a second, and a third winding positioned around the respective first, second, and third winding legs, the first, second, and third windings each comprising an electrical conductor wound into a plurality of overlapping layers each formed by a plurality of adjacent turns of the electrical conductor, and an insulating material without end fill positioned between each of the overlapping layers.

Claim 1 recites, in part:

winding an electrical conductor into a first plurality turns in side by side relationship to form a first layer of turns; covering at least a portion of the first layer of turns with a layer of insulating material without end fill; winding the electrical conductor into a second plurality turns in side by side relationship to form a second layer of turns that overlies the first layer of turns and the layer of insulation; . . . wherein the electrical conductor is one of: wound into the first and second pluralities of turns over a winding leg of a core of the three-phase transformer; and wound into the first and second pluralities of turns over a mandrel and subsequently installed on the winding leg.

Claim 17 further recites:

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wherein the electrical conductor has a transition portion formed therein between a first and a second of the overlapping layers, and the transition portion is at least one of (i) bent to form an offset in the electrical conductor, and (ii) secured to at least one of the plurality of adjacent turns.

Claim 1 further recites:


at least one of bending the electrical conductor to form an offset in the electrical conductor at a transition in the electrical conductor between the first layer of turns and the second layer of turns, and securing the transition in the electrical conductor to at least one of the first plurality of turns.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the transformer of claim 17 can be made only by the method of claim 1. Restriction between the claims of Group I and Group II therefore is not required.

Applicants provisionally elect claims 1-16 (Group I) for further prosecution on the merits, in the event the restriction requirement is not successfully traversed.

A Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested.

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